

peoples and tribes so that you may come to know one another," so that we may come to know one another.

As leaders and as Members of Congress, if we could take the message that we articulated so well this evening and spread that throughout our country over these next days and weeks and months, I think we will have done a good service. When the world watched our national prayer service earlier today, as many alluded to in their speeches on the floor today, they heard the healing words of many faiths: a Muslim Iman, a Jewish rabbi, and Christian clergy, Mr. Speaker.

These Americans, like the rest of the world, all worship God in their own way, but the common faith they share, what we have witnessed in the torrent of goodness this week, the neighbors helping neighbors, strangers helping strangers, is that hate can never conquer our Nation's spirit. That is the common faith that they share, that hate can never conquer our Nation's spirit.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, this week, thousands of people in New York and Washington lost their lives in a brutal assault on our Nation that was a calculated strike at the heart of our freedom and national unity. Millions of Arab Americans, South Asian Americans and American Muslims around the country have shared our sorrow and outrage at Tuesday's terrorist attacks. They have donated their blood, their money, their food and their time to the rescue and recovery efforts at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Now these same individuals who have mourned and prayed with us have come under suspicion by their neighbors and the threat of additional violence in the form of hate crimes at their homes, schools, community centers and mosques. As a part of our effort to protect America from violence, we must unequivocally condemn the attacks against these groups and pledge to protect their civil rights and civil liberties.

My district is home to one of the largest Arab and Muslim communities in the country. It is vital that we distinguish the beliefs of these Americans from the perpetrators of Tuesday's violence, and recognize that American Muslims share our values and contribute significantly to our communities. If we fail to do so, then we will have seriously undermined freedom—the same principle we find ourselves vigorously defending in the wake of Tuesday's attacks.

All Members should stand to condemn any acts of bigotry, violence or discrimination against Arab Americans, South Asians and American Muslims and call upon Americans of every faith and heritage to stand together in this time of national crisis. We must pledge that in our pursuit of national security government agencies will work to avoid activities that encroach upon the civil rights and civil liberties of citizens or legal residents of the United States.

As we should have learned from the shameful history of internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II, the civil rights and civil liberties of discrete groups of minorities

should be specially considered during times of domestic and international turmoil. Our sense of community with fellow Americans of Arab and South Asian descent and those of the Muslim faith should not be counted as another casualty of Tuesday's senseless violence.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their time this evening, and I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 227

Whereas all Americans are united in condemning, in the strongest possible terms, the terrorists who planned and carried out the attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, and in pursuing all those responsible for these attacks and their sponsors until they are brought to justice and punished;

Whereas the Arab-American, South Asian-American, and American Muslim communities are a vital part of the Nation;

Whereas on September 12, 2001, in a mass for the Nation and the victims of the terrorist hijackings and attacks, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the Archbishop of Washington, D.C., reminded all Americans in prayer that "we must seek the guilty and not strike out against the innocent or we become like them who are without moral guidance or direction";

Whereas the heads of State of several Arab and predominantly Muslim countries have condemned the terrorist attacks on the United States and the senseless loss of innocent lives; and

Whereas vengeful threats and incidents of violence directed at law-abiding, patriotic Americans of Arab or South Asian descent, particularly the Sikh community, and adherents of the Islamic faith have already occurred: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) declares that in the quest to identify, bring to justice, and punish the perpetrators and sponsors of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, that the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans, including Arab-Americans, American Muslims, and Americans from South Asia, should be protected; and

(2) condemns any acts of violence or discrimination against any Americans, including Arab-Americans, American Muslims, and Americans from South Asia.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 days within which to revise and extend and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res 227.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

AMENDING IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT TO PROVIDE PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR ADMISSION OF "S" VISA NON-IMMIGRANTS

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1424) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide permanent authority for the admission of "S" visa non-immigrants, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) for a comment on the bill.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, this issue comes before us at a very appropriate time. It was about 2 days ago, maybe 3 days ago now considering the time is after midnight, authority ran out for our government, through the Attorney General, to be able to bring in alien witnesses for cases involving terrorists, of all things; meaning that when the Attorney General, the Justice Department, and the intelligence communities of our government were able to mount a case against terrorists, so appropriate in view of the events of the past week, that they could bring in people with special information under what was called the "S" visa, a special program to permit aliens to come in for the specific purpose of providing information and testifying, as it were, in these cases constructed by our Justice Department against terrorists.

That authority has run out, and it ran out almost immediately after the events took place in the Pentagon and in New York. So we have to reinstate it as fast as possible. That is why we are here tonight, because now it becomes even more urgent that we be in a position to be able to authorize the Attorney General to continue building the cases against these new terrorists now and others yet to come, we hope not, which we will do everything we can to prevent, but we must reinstate the authority for these special visas, these "S" visas that would permit this extra arm of law enforcement to work its will.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Continuing to reserve my reservation of objection, Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for bringing this important initiative to the floor of the House tonight, particularly with the great need that we have. It is obvious that we are in a time deep of sorrow.

And Congress continues and will continue to seek all possible avenues which would help provide assistance to